CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5

    1.   A method of caching data comprising:

    filling a cache with incoming data to a first level, said filling at a rate relative to said incoming data;

    increasing said cache from said first level to an optimum level

10 concurrent with data outputting; and

    adjusting the level of said cache concurrent with incoming data and data outputting to prevent said level of said cache from exceeding a maximum cache level and to prevent said level of said cache from decreasing below said first level, such that continuous streaming

15 outputting of said data is provided.

    2.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said data outputting is enabled subsequent to said level of said cache attaining said first level.

20

    3.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said increasing of said cache level from said first level to said optimum level further comprises altering said rate of incoming data incoming to a rate greater than the rate of said data outputting.

25

    4.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said adjusting of said cache level further comprises increasing said rate of incoming data at

a percentage relative to the percentage at which the cache level is below said optimum level.

5.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said adjusting of said cache level further comprises decreasing said rate of incoming data at a percentage relative to the percentage at which the cache level is above said optimum level.

6.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said data is streaming data.

7.   The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said cache is a memory unit.

8.   A computer system in a computer system network, said computer comprising:

a bus;

a display device coupled to said bus;

a memory unit coupled to said bus;

a processor coupled to said bus, said processor for executing a method for caching data, said method for caching data comprising:

filling a cache with incoming data to a first level, said filling at a rate relative to said incoming data;

increasing said cache from said first level to an optimum level concurrent with data outputting; and

adjusting the level of said cache concurrent with said incoming data and said data outputting to prevent said cache level from reaching a maximum cache level and to prevent said cache level from falling below said first level, such that continuous streaming outputting of data is provided.

9.   The computer system of Claim 8 wherein said data outputting is enabled subsequent to the level of said cache attaining said first level.

10.   The computer system of Claim 8 wherein increasing of said cache level from said first level to said optimum level in said method of caching data further comprises altering said rate of incoming data to a rate greater than the rate of said data outputting.

11.   The computer system of Claim 8 wherein adjusting of said cache level in said method of caching data further comprises increasing said rate of incoming data at a percentage relative to the percentage at which said cache level is below said optimum level.

12.   The computer system of Claim 8 wherein adjusting of said cache level in said method of caching data further comprises decreasing the rate of incoming data at a percentage relative to the percentage at which said cache level is above said optimum level.

13. The computer system of Claim 8 wherein said data is streaming data.

14. The computer system of Claim 8 wherein said cache is a memory unit.

15. A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform:

filling a cache with incoming data to a first level, said filling at a rate relative to said data;

increasing said cache from said first level to an optimum level concurrent with data outputting; and

adjusting the level of said cache concurrent with incoming data and data outputting to prevent the level of said cache from reaching a maximum cache level and to prevent the level of said cache from falling below said first level, such that continuous-streaming outputting of data is provided.

16. The computer-usable medium of Claim 15 wherein said data outputting is enabled subsequent to the level of said cache attaining said first level.

17. The computer-usable medium of Claim 15 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causing a computer system to perform increasing said cache level from said first level to said

optimum level further comprises altering said rate of incoming data to a
rate greater than the rate of data outputting.

18.   The computer-usable medium of Claim 15 wherein said
computer-readable program code embodied therein causing a computer
system to perform adjusting said cache level further comprises increasing
said rate of incoming data at a percentage equal to the percentage at
which the cache level is below said optimum level.

19.   The computer-usable medium of Claim 15 wherein said
computer-readable program code embodied therein causing a computer
system to perform adjusting said cache level further comprises decreasing
said rate of incoming data at a percentage relative to the percentage at
which said cache level is above said optimum level.

20.   The computer-usable medium of Claim 15 wherein said data
is streaming data.

21.   The computer-usable medium of Claim 15 wherein said cache
is a memory unit.